

1 HR41
2 162604-1
3 By Representative Buskey
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 10-MAR-15

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7
8 POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING DR. JAMES ALEXANDER FRANKLIN,
9 SR., FOR OUTSTANDING LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AND INVALUABLE
10 SERVICE TO HUMANITY.

11
12 WHEREAS, it is a tremendous privilege to
13 posthumously honor Dr. James Alexander Franklin, Sr., for
14 outstanding lifetime achievement and invaluable service to
15 humanity; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Franklin was born on November 17, 1886,
17 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and came from humble beginnings; he
18 worked his way through college shoveling ashes and waiting
19 tables and earned his undergraduate degree from Lincoln
20 University in Lincoln University, Pennsylvania; he attended
21 the University of Michigan Medical School on scholarship and
22 graduated with honors and a medical degree; and

23 WHEREAS, upon graduation, Dr. Franklin returned to
24 Tennessee and married Dora Alice Cochraham; he entered a
25 teaching job in Knoxville, Tennessee, and joined the military
26 in 1915; he served with much honor and distinction as a member
27 of the medical unit during World War I; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Franklin opened his first medical
2 practice in Evergreen, Alabama, and earned a salary of only
3 three dollars per week; during an outbreak of influenza, he
4 treated a white citizen who could not afford the fees of the
5 white doctor in Conecuh County and angered the townspeople for
6 doing so; the white citizen put Dr. Franklin and his wife and
7 two children on a train, which only traveled as far as
8 Plateau, Alabama; in 1919, Dr. Franklin settled in Mobile,
9 Alabama, and dedicated his life to providing essential medical
10 care to the community of North Mobile; he provided treatment
11 to patients who could not afford medical care and accepted
12 service payment "in kind" from those who were penniless; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Franklin became known as "The South's
14 Richest Negro Doctor;" he was a father of ten and married
15 Marguerite Wiggins Russell upon the passing of Dora in 1950;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, a social and community leader, Dr. Franklin
18 served as the founder and charter member of the local chapter
19 of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Dearborn Street YMCA, and
20 the Colored Carnival Association (Mobile Area Mardi Gras
21 Association), and he was an active member of other civic and
22 social clubs; he was a faithful and devoted member of Most
23 Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Franklin opened his home to many
25 prominent African-Americans who traveled the South during
26 segregation and were not allowed to stay in hotels including
27 historic icons Jackie Robinson, Marion Anderson, and Paul

1 Robeson; currently, his home is a historical landmark and a
2 monument to his countless contributions during the Jim Crow
3 era; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Franklin, who never retired, died at
5 the age of 86 in 1972; the Franklin Primary Health Clinic,
6 which was founded in 1975 and named in his honor, continues to
7 provide quality health care with 15 locations in Mobile County
8 and other south Alabama Counties; and

9 WHEREAS, through the years, Dr. Franklin earned
10 immense respect for his tireless dedication and exceptional
11 abilities; his indelible legacy as a physician, scholar, and
12 humanitarian will be remembered for generations to come; now
13 therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
15 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Dr. James Alexander Franklin,
16 Sr., is posthumously honored and commended, and this
17 resolution is offered in highest tribute to his memory.